

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00040 161248Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07
L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
/089 W

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R 161115Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2342
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS PALERMO 0040

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, IT
SUBJECT: ALLEGED U.S. MISTREATMENT OF ITALIAN FISHING FLEET

1. JANUARY 13 EDITION OF PALERMO DAILY "GIORNALE DI SICILIA"
CARRIES ARTICLE HEADLINED "SERIOUS AMERICAN INTOLLERANCE TOWARD
THE ITALIAN FISHING FLEET" WHICH ALLEGES THAT SINCE JANUARY 1
U.S. HAS FORCED 15 ITALIAN DEEP-SEA FISHING VESSELS, WITH SOME
900 CREW MEMBERS, INTO A "GHETTO-ZONE" OF NEW YORK. SUBJECT
TO SEVERE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, ZONE IS DESCRIBED AS DANGEROUS
TO VESSELS AND CREW WITH DAILY CATCHES REDUCED BY 90 PERCENT.
ITALIAN CATCH ALSO REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM U.S. INSISTENCE ON
CHANGE IN NET-DIMENSION WHICH SEVERELY REDUCES CATCH OF SMALLER
FISH.

2. REPORT CLAIMS EACH VESSEL IS LOSING US DOLS 8-10 THOUSAND
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PER DAY AND THAT UNDER EXISTING RESTRICTIONS ITALIANS COULD NOT
HOPE TO REACH 6,000-TON CATCH ALLOTTED THEM THIS YEAR. ARTICLE,
DATELINED WASHINGTON, JANUARY 12, EVIDENTLY REPRESENTS VIEWS OF
DIRECTOR OF ITALIAN FISHING INDUSTRY FEDERATION (FEDERPESCA)
IANDOLI GIVEN TO "ITALIA" NEWS AGENCY, AND SAYS FEDERPESCA HAS
BROUGHT THESE MATTERS TO THE ATTENTION OF MERCHANT MARINE
MINISTER LATTANZIO AND FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI. TO DATE, HOWEVER,

FEDERPESCA'S ENTREATIES HAVE PRODUCED NO DEMONSTRABLE RESULTS IN TERMS OF LESS STRINGENT U.S. APPLICATION OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS# NOR HAS ITALIAN INTERVENTION BROUGHT IMPROVEMENT IN U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO EMERGENCIES WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS IN NEW OPERATING ZONE. IN LATTER REGARD, ARTICLE ALLEGES "NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITIES" PERMITTED SHIP IN DISTRESS TO TAKE SHELTER IN PORT ONLY AFTER SOME 32 HOURS OF SOS TRANSMISSIONS.

3. HOWEVER ONE-SIDED, ABOVE KINDS OF REPORTING COULD BE TROUBLESOME DURING THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD. SICILIANS ARE ALERT TO SUCH ISSUES GIVEN PROBLEMS SICILY-BASED FISHING VESSELS FREQUENTLY EXPERIENCE WITH TUNISIA AND LIBYA. WHILE UNAWARE HOW MUCH PLAY STORY MIGHT HAVE HAD IN NATIONAL ITALIAN PRESS, BELIEVE MATERIAL FOR REBUTTAL WOULD BE USEFUL IN EVENT RECEIVES WIDER ATTENTION.
COLLINS

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